

BOOK REVIEW

Year Book of Dermatology, 1966-1967.

Edited by ALFRED W. KOPF and RAFAEL ANDRADE. 1967. Pp. 525, figs, bibl., index. Wiley, Chichester, Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago. 80s.

There are eighteen year books in various fields of medicine from these publishers. Started in 1900, these volumes are intended to provide abstracts of the most important papers published in a wide variety of medical and surgical specialties each year. The present volume, which is principally devoted to dermatology but does contain a short section on venereology, maintains the high standards of previous editions and will be of value in a well-stocked library.

The part devoted to venereal diseases is only seven pages long from a total of over 500 pages, and is certainly inadequate to keep a practising venereologist up-to-date in the year's advances in the subject. The six abstracts, which discuss treatment of syphilis with Reverin, the structure of cardiolipin, the fluorescent treponemal antibody test, biological false positive reactions, a selective culture medium for the diagnosis of gonorrhoea, and the TRIC agent in non-specific genital infection, are well-

written, accurate, and clear. They describe some of the new work in the subject but, compared with the detailed coverage of the majority of dermatological subjects, are quite inadequate to do justice to the increasing quantity of research which is being carried out in venereology.

Although venereology has moved away from dermatology and the common ground between the two disciplines has narrowed in recent years, there are still several areas of mutual interest. This is well illustrated by abstracts concerning the treatment of Reiter's syndrome with folic acid antagonists, the detection of potential allergic reactors to penicillin by immunological tests, a statistical survey of the incidence of pearly penile papules, vulval lesions of lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, epidemic cutaneous herpes simplex in wrestlers, a study of molluscum contagiosum, the inhibition of T-strain mycoplasmata by erythromycin, and several other sections.

The volume is well produced and easy to read and is recommended for inclusion in hospital and departmental libraries. If, however, it is intended to keep the practitioner of dermatology and venereology informed about both aspects of his work, it fails to give enough space to venereology and he will be obliged to seek further information elsewhere.

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